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| Local Authority: | <b>Exeter City Council</b> |
| Reference:       | <b>ASR17-005</b>           |
| Date of issue    | <b>July 2017</b>           |

## **Annual Status Report**

The Report sets out the Annual Status Report, which forms part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 and subsequent Regulations.

The Local Authority continues with a single consolidated AQMA, declared in May 2011 for the exceedance of annual and hourly mean objectives for nitrogen dioxide. The AQMA includes areas previously designated as AQMA's and extends along most of the main roads in the centre of the city. The latest monitoring continues to suggest that there are exceedances of the annual mean objective at 3 locations, principally at locations close to the B3212 and the B3183. There is no evidence of exceedance of the hourly mean objective.

The City Council have established alliances with key partners to develop future joint air quality projects, including Devon County Council, neighbouring District Councils, Healthcare Trust and Exeter University. A new Action Plan is under development and expected to be released for public consultation in September 2017.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are acceptable for all sources and pollutants, with the provisos listed in the commentary below.

Following the completion of this report, Exeter City Council should submit the new Action Plan to DEFRA within the period of statutory consultation, prior to adoption by the Council.

The next Annual Status Report is required by June 2018.

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## Commentary

The report uses the standard template, is well structured, detailed, and provides the information specified in the Guidance.

1. The latest round of monitoring confirms the conclusions of the previous report in relation to status of the AQMA, where there is evidence of continued exceedance of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide at a few locations, but no exceedance of the hourly mean objective.
2. The long term trends are encouraging but the latest results show increases in some locations, highlighting that local traffic management may require further consideration within the developing action plan in areas where there are consistent exceedances. Action to address consistent hotspots should be a key within the developing action plan.
3. As the new Action Plan is developed, it will be important to consider the relationships between local traffic management and positions of air pollution hotspots. It is likely that there will be a significant relationship between traffic congestion and hotspot locations.
4. The following recommendations from the previous ASR appraisal continue to be relevant.
5. Thus there remains a priority within the action plan to consider the prioritisation of measures that can significantly impact on reducing pollution below objective levels on a clear understanding of current and future transport management within the city.
6. It will also be beneficial to review the level of further emissions reductions required to achieve the air quality objectives, in order to inform the development of the measures within the new AQAP.
7. There are no exceedences of the hourly objective, although the levels remain within 10% of 60ug/m<sup>3</sup>, suggesting that the AQMA can be considered for revocation when the level falls below 90% of the objective level. It remains appropriate to consider reviewing the current monitoring strategy, alongside the development of the action plan, in order to identify hotspots and provide confidence in relation to future decisions on revoking the current AQMA.
8. It is clear that the long term results in Table A3 do not represent results corrected for distance, as reported in Table B1. It is important to be clear that results presented

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for comparison to objective levels should be corrected as appropriate, including distance corrections when required.

9. We recommend that the Council should continue to work with key local stakeholder groups, particularly the Transport Authority, in developing the Action Plan. Local Stakeholder involvement in the development of the Action Plan, may be a key factor in developing local measures to address the pollution hotspots.
10. The Council should consider the full recommendations within the latest Technical Guidance LAQM TG(16), for developing Action Plans.
11. It is normally expected that statutory consultees, including DEFRA, are invited to comment on a draft AQAP prior to adoption by the Council of a final AQAP.

This commentary is not designed to deal with every aspect of the report. It highlights a number of issues that should help the local authority either in completing the Updating and Screening Assessment adequately (if required) or in carrying out future Review & Assessment work.

**Issues specifically related to this appraisal can be followed up by returning the attached comment form to Defra, Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Government or DOE, as appropriate**

For any other queries please contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk:

Telephone: 0800 0327 953

Email: LAQMHelpdesk@uk.bureauveritas.com

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## **Appraisal Response Comment Form**

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| Contact Name:             |  |
| Contact Telephone number: |  |
| Contact email address:    |  |

**Comments on appraisal/Further information:**